

Collin ran down the road from school toward home. The sky overhead was very dark and cloudy. "It's springtime, and there always seem to be lots of thunderstorms in the spring," thought Collin as he headed for home.

When Collin got home, he found his mother listening closely to the radio. "I'm glad you are home," said Collin's mother. "I've been listening to the radio, and it seems that we are under a tornado watch." "What's a tornado watch?" asked Collin. "A tornado watch is when the weather is just right for a tornado," said Collin's mother. "Please go check and make sure we have candles and matches in case the lights go out."

Collin ran to the cabinet and got out plenty of matches and candles. He then ran to look out of the window. The clouds looked thicker and there seemed to be a green light in the air. The wind had stopped and the whole world seemed to be waiting for something to happen.

"Collin, come here quickly!" yelled Collin's mother. Collin ran into the kitchen to see what his mother wanted. "The radio says we are now under a tornado warning, which means that a tornado has been spotted. We must get to the basement quickly." Collin grabbed the candles and matches. Collin's mother grabbed the radio, and they ran down the basement steps.

Overhead they heard a roaring sound like a big train going by. "That is the sound a tornado makes when it goes overhead," warned Collin's mother. Collin and his mother stayed down in the basement for an hour as the wind howled and the rain poured down outside.

At last the radio announcer said that the danger had passed. Collin and his mother headed up the basement stairs to see what the tornado had done. The house was fine, but when Collin and his mother stepped outside, they gasped in dismay. Several of the big trees in the front yard were lying on their sides. The car was lying upside down in a big puddle of water.

"Well," said Collin's mother as she put her arm around Collin, "the most important thing is that we are both still alive." Collin felt very glad inside. He was sorry that the trees were down and that the car was upside down on its roof. However, he was glad that he and his mother were OK.

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